

LAPHOUND NEWS

VICTORIA LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5114, Station B

Victoria, B.C. V8R 6N3



Volume 56 - 5

Website: - www.vlms.ca

June 2013

Board

President	Mike Hill
Vice President	David Hosking
Past President	Patrick Lydon
Secretary	Carrie Maier
Treasurer	Greg Shea
Members at Large	Vanessa Steffens
	Yvan Gagnon
	Brian McMillan
	Leni Gagnon

Next Meeting:

When: Monday, June 3 2013
Place: Burnside Lawnbowling
 Clubhouse
 274 Hampton Rd.
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Program: Strawberry Social

Committees

Programs	Vacant
Librarian	Sylvan Burnside Christine Paton
Show Chair	Gerri Irwin Vanessa Steffens
Membership	Kathleen Kane Murdoch Smith
Field Trips	Gilles Lebrun 250- 382-6119
Sunshine Corner	Lorena Taylor 250- 384-0755
Refreshments	Molly Beddington Barbara MacKenzie
Workshop	Brian McMillan Vanessa Steffens
Editor	Leni Gagnon editorvlmsnews@shaw.ca 250-479-6214

Executive Meeting:

When: Last Monday of every month
 (except when it falls on a holiday)
 (no meetings in Dec., June & July)
Place: Les Passmore Centre, (Club
 Workshop)
 Hampton Rd.
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Field Trip:

When: June 23, 2013
Place: East Sooke Peninsula
Time: Meet at 9:00 am at the Juan De
 Fuca Senior Center.
 If Going, Phone Gilles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**Mike Hill**

A big "Thank You!" to Jessica Hedberg for stepping up to take on the Membership Committee position. A big "Thank You" also to Kathleen Kane for doing a great job on the Membership Committee. Good luck in your next endeavor.

PLEASE REMEMBER WE STILL NEED A SECRETARY AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR. We need members to fill these positions to help our club remain organized and interesting.

This month will be our last meeting for the summer. Usually we have a club picnic some time during the summer. Last year we didn't have one. Members have been asking if we are going to have one this year. We would like to have some suggestions as to where it could be held. In the past, we had it in a member's yard. Unfortunately this is not an option to have the picnic there again. Is there a particular park that we could look into for having the picnic there? Contact me or another member of the executive if you have any ideas.

Have a good summer!!!!

SUNSHINE CORNER:**Lorena Taylor**

Yvan Gagnon's mother passed away May 2nd. He went to Quebec to be with his brothers and sister. She will be missed.

MEMBERSHIP:**Kathleen Kane, Murdo Smith**

Not available

LIBRARY:**Sylvan Burnside, Christine Paton**

Not Available

EDITORS REMARKS**Leni Gagnon**

This is the last issue for the summer until September. I will Email any information that comes my way that I think you might feel useful or need to know.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and come back refreshed and ready to start again in September.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

A diamond is a piece of coal that made good under pressure.

Money isn't everything, but it ranks right up there with oxygen

SHOWS AND EVENTS**JUNE**

1-2 **EVERETT ROCK & GEM CLUB**
Everett Community College
Student Fitness Cent
2206 Tower St
Everett, Washington

- 8-9 **RIPPLE ROCK GEM & MINERAL CLUB**
 Timberline High School Gym
 1681 S. Dogwood St.
 Campbell River, BC

JULY

- 14 **SURREY ROCKHOUND CLUB**
Tailgate Sale
 Sullivan Hall Parking Lot

- 20-21 **OKANAGAN GEM SHOW**
 Winfield Memorial Hall
 3270 Berry Road
 Winfield, BC

- 26-28 **VANCOUVER ISLAND**
GEMBOREE
 See details below

AUGUST

- 11-16 **SUMMER CAMP**
 Hosted by:
 Hastings Centre Rockhounds
 Cyoosh Creek Campground
 Lillooet, BC

For more information visit: [BCLS Summer Camp](#)

VLMS SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

The Field Trip for **July** will be the **long weekend** camping trip to the northern part of Vancouver Island. The leader for this trip is Dave Mullett.

It is a 1,000 km drive on pavement return trip,(depending on pit stops it is 6-8 hours drive 1 way) plus about 50 km 1 way to the top of the mountain on logging roads. Devils

Bath (largest Limestone Sinkhole, North of Mexico is a 10 kilometers away) we could visit that should you wish also.

There is many forestry campgrounds in the area, if you want hotel/motel, fancier campgrounds there are many in Port McNeil.

For more information call Dave Mullett at 250-902-7401 or email davidamullett@gmail.com.

August 18th, Gilles plans to go to Lost Creek for Gold Panning and Garnets. If you are interested **please phone him first to let him know you want to go., at 250-282-6119.**

GEMBOREE 2013

The GEMBOREE 2013 will be held on the weekend of 26th, 27th, 28th of JULY.

The Location is 2916 Macaulay Road, Black Creek-- Jack and Jan Boyes' place.

The Summer Zone meeting will be Sunday the 28th at 1pm. Same place Camp set up and registration will be Friday the 26th--any time you get here.

There is free Dry Camping.

Donations accepted to help defray the cost of the Porta Potties.

For tenters, there is a kitchen in the well lit Shed(Gasthaus)--Fridge, stove and sink, tables and chairs. And one in the Club Workshop.

There are also sinks, showers and toilets in the workshops.

We have room for tents, campers, trailers and motorhomes.

Contact Jan at 250-337-8461 or janboyes@telus.net to reserve a spot.

Gemboree Schedule will include the

Friday evening "gathering round the fire" if weather permits, or if wet, in the Gasthaus (Shed). Coffee pot will be always on and kettle & tea available. Cold drinks in the fridge. Pay on the honour system.

Saturday morning--do your own breakfast (two kitchens) make your lunch and assemble for fieldtrips. We hope to have 3 trips to choose from. A Fossil Trip, an easy river or beach trip, and something more ambitious, if we can get into the mountains.

After returns from the field trips, in the afternoon, coffee break and the Bucket Draw.

Pot Luck Supper and Entertainment. Remember to get your gang together to perform something.

Sunday Morning--Pancake Breakfast and Rock auction.

BBQ lunch provided and the Zone meeting.

Break camp and take your treasures home.

I am also asking for donations of any old white elephants you may have hanging around at home, for our Bucket draw. Rocks for the auction would be nice too.

Thanks, Janice

TAILGATE SALE

Surrey Rockhound Club is holding a **tailgate sale Sunday, July 14th** in the

Sullivan Hall parking lot. In order to attend you need to be a member of a rock club (any one) as our insurance company insisted on it.

Let me know if you belong to any club. If not you may want to consider joining a club, the yearly rates are very reasonable.

Also for your information each parking spot costs \$10.00, if you have one spot you can either sell out of the trunk of your vehicle or you can set up in that parking spot and park your vehicle in a designated area (not close to your spot), of course if you have 2 spots (total of \$20.00) you can do it either way/or both but you must stay within the boundaries of your assigned parking spot.

Email Rita if you wish to have a spot:
Her email: ritr@shaw.ca

SHOP HINTS **By Brad Smith**

PICKLE PROBLEMS

Dropping a hot item into the pickle after soldering causes a hiss that sends small droplets of the acid pickle into the air. This will rust your nearby tools and can't be all that good to breathe either. My solution is to use a coffee cup of water next to my solder block to quench the piece before dropping it in the pickle.

Also, a hot pickle pot gives off fumes that bother me in my home workshop. I get around that by using my pickle cold. I mix it a little stronger than with a hot pot so that it works about as quickly. I

keep it in a large-mouth peanut butter bottle and cap it off whenever I'm done using it.

WHAT TOOLS DO I NEED FOR ROCK AND MINERAL COLLECTING

With summer coming up many of us will be hitting the trails to look for those treasures that will be perfect to display or make that beautiful piece of lapidary.

Some of you may be new to rockhounding and spending a wonderful day commuting with nature. You will need to gather these basic tools before you begin. You should be able to buy these items at a hardware store or from a rock and mineral dealer.

1. **ROCK HAMMER** – with a square head and a pointed end for breaking off small rock specimens to take home.
2. **CHISEL** – a good tool for loosening mineral crystals.
3. **POCKET KNIFE** – to dig out any fossils you may find and to test the hardness of minerals.
4. **MAGNIFYING GLASS** – to take a closer look at the different mineral crystals or other structures in each type of rock.
5. **GOGGLES** – to protect your eyes
6. **SMALL LABELS** – to label each rock specimen (name, where you found it, etc.)
7. **NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL** – to jot down notes about the date and the area where you found your specimen.

8. **NEWSPAPER** – to wrap each specimen in so that the rocks don't hit against one another and break.
9. **STRONG CANVAS BAG** – for carrying your finds home.
10. **STORAGE BOX & SMALL PLASTIC BAGS** – For cataloging and storing your specimens by category (rocks or minerals) and type.

Source: Poster at Rockhound Shop



NB – Never lick a mineral it could make you very ill or worse.

FIELD TRIP HAPPINESS IS.....

- Having to ask for help to carry your crystal specimens back to your truck.
- Finding a geode as big as a basketball and weighing as much as a golf ball.
- Finding big beautiful specimens on the ground without having to dig for them.
- Finding that the pyrite (fool's gold) on your quartz.....Isn't.
- Your rockhounding partner telling you the snake you just sat on is a garter snake.

- Your rockhounding leader telling you the hike up the hill is a mile and it is less than half a mile.
- Finding the biggest and best “bragging rock” on a field trip.

Source: Pebble Trails, June 2006

ROCKHOUNDERS CODE OF ETHICS

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations and rules governing collecting on private lands and will observe them.
3. I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting materials in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind, such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires only in designated or safe areas and will ascertain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning materials – matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
10. I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.
11. I will cause no damage to collecting material and will take home what I can reasonably use.
12. I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
13. I will support the Rockhound Project H.E.L.P. (Help eliminate litter please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
14. I will cooperate with Field Trip Leaders and those designated authority in all collecting areas.
15. I will report to the proper authorities any deposits of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations and for public education and scientific purposes. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of Natural Resources.
16. I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use good outdoor manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of Rockhounds everywhere.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AGATE, JASPER AND CHALCEDONY

What's the Difference?

If you read about the gem materials used for lapidary work and rock tumbling, you will encounter three

names over and over again. These are “agate,” “jasper” and “chalcedony.” These names are often misunderstood and often used incorrectly.

With a little knowledge you can use these names correctly for most specimens. However, some specimens can be difficult or impossible to name correctly with these terms if you must rely only on visual inspection of the material.

We would like to provide a short lesson on these names to help you understand them and use them correctly – as much as that is possible.

What is Chalcedony?

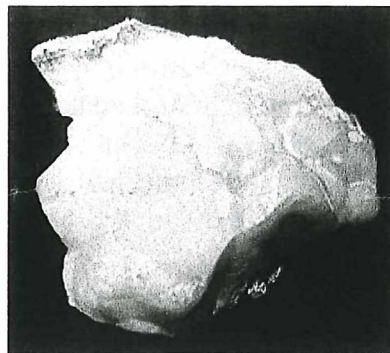
Chalcedony is a generic name given to any material that is composed of microcrystalline quartz. Agate and jasper are both varieties of chalcedony.

What is microcrystalline quartz?
 “Quartz” is a mineral composed of silicon and oxygen (SiO₂) and the word microcrystalline means that the quartz is in the form of crystals that are smaller than 30 microns in size (a micron is a unit of measure that is 1/1000th of a millimeter). These are very tiny quartz crystals – smaller than can be seen by the unaided eye. (Sometimes the word “cryptocrystalline” is used instead of “microcrystalline.”)

Chalcedony is a very hard material. It has a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale. It breaks with a conchoidal fracture, and freshly broken pieces have a very smooth, non-granular texture and a waxy to vitreous luster. These

characteristics enable chalcedony to be cut and polished into a bright, durable gemstone.

Chalcedony occurs in a wide range of colors. It is often gray, white, brown, red, yellow, orange and black, but it can occur in any color.



It can also be banded or have plume, dendritic, mottled, mossy or other color patterns. At one time the word “chalcedony” was reserved in parts of the gemstone industry for a light blue translucent material; however, this use of the word has nearly disappeared.

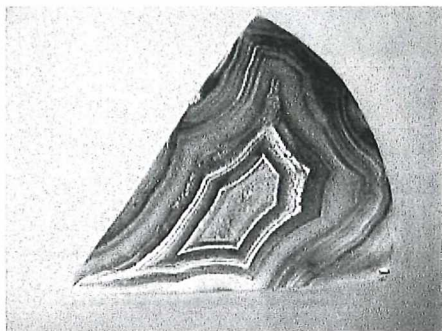
The Difference Between Agate and Jasper

The primary difference between agate and jasper is in their diaphaneity. The word “diaphaneity” is used to describe, “how easily light passes through a material.” There are three general levels of diaphaneity. They are, from highest to lowest:

- **Transparent** (light and images pass through)
- **Translucent** (light passes through)
- **Opaque** (no light passes through)

What is Agate?

Agate is a translucent to semitransparent chalcedony. If you have a piece that is semitransparent you will be able to hold a very thin piece up and see distorted or foggy images through it. If you hold a translucent piece up to a source of light you will see a small amount of light passing through the thin edges. If you hold it up to the light and pass your hand between the material and the source of light, your hand will block the light passing through the material.



Agate is generally a banded material, and observing bands in a specimen of chalcedony is a very good clue that you have an agate. However, some agates do not have obvious bands, or instead of being banded they have plume or mossy inclusions.

How Does Agate Form?

Many agates form in areas of volcanic activity where waters, rich in dissolved silica (SiO_2), flow through fractures and cavities in igneous rocks. When the solution is highly concentrated with dissolved silica, a silica gel can form on the walls of these cavities. That gel will slowly crystallize to form microcrystalline quartz.

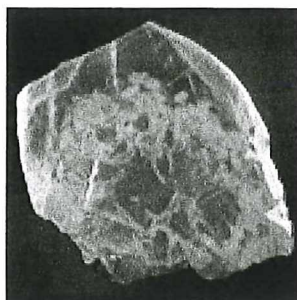
Over time, additional layers of gel are deposited and these form younger bands of microcrystalline quartz on the walls of the cavity. If the dissolved mineral composition of the silica-rich water changes over time, impurities (elements other than silicon and oxygen) can be incorporated into the gel and into the microcrystalline quartz. These impurities can alter the color of the microcrystalline quartz. This can produce the color banding, plumes or moss that are often seen in translucent agate.

Although agates typically form in igneous rocks such as basalt, rhyolite, and andesite, they can also form in sedimentary rocks such as limestone. All of these types of rock are more susceptible to weathering than agate. So when the rocks are eventually broken down by weathering, the durable agates will remain. This is why agate nodules are often found in stream valleys that cut through fine-grained igneous rocks or limestone.

What is Jasper?

Jasper is an opaque variety of chalcedony. Neither light nor images pass through.

Microcrystalline quartz in its pure form is semitransparent. When a small amount of impurities or foreign materials are added, the color of the microcrystalline quartz changes and its ability to transmit light decreases. Jasper contains enough impurities and foreign material to render it opaque. So, the real difference between jasper and agate is the amount of impurities and foreign material contained with a specimen.



How Does Jasper Form?

While agate is typically a material that forms in the cavities of an igneous rock or limestone, jasper forms when fine particulate materials are cemented by silica. This often occurs in soft sediments when silica precipitates and cements them into a solid mass. These included particulates are what give jasper its color and opacity. A sedimentary material known as chert forms in extensive bedded deposits, and as an opaque variety of chalcedony it receives the name "jasper." Jaspers are also known to form when volcanic ash is cemented into a solid material from the precipitation of silica from solution.

Problems With Assigning a Name

If you have a piece of chalcedony, determining if it is an agate or a jasper is easy when that material is clearly semitransparent, translucent or opaque. However, it can be difficult to determine the boundary between translucent and opaque. In addition, some specimens can have translucent zones and opaque zones. What are they called? Some people have solved this problem by using the term "jaspagate" when a specimen contains both jasper and agate.

Assigning a name can be difficult when the composition of the material is unknown. A material known as "Dalmatian stone" has often been called "Dalmatian jasper." However, we sent some out for analysis and learned that it was not jasper at all, but an igneous rock. The material known as "ocean jasper" is reported to be a rhyolite – another igneous rock.

SOURCE: Lapidary Journal 1971

For Sale

One floor mounted display cabinet with overall dimensions 42" long x 18" wide x 30" high. This unit stands on two bearers, one at each end.

One display cabinet with overall dimensions 32" long x 11¹/₂" wide x 17" high. This unit normally sits on a table or other cabinet. We also have assorted rocks including petrified wood, rhodonite, flowerstone and other assorted slabs. There are also tools and books. This is part of a downsizing / moving operation.

Call 250-479-7881 for more information or to make arrangements to view.

For Sale

Quantity of lapidary tools, equipment, supplies and jewelry.

Call 250-391-6064

What Makes a Dad
Author Unknown

God took the strength of a mountain,
 The majesty of a tree,
 The warmth of a summer sun,
 The calm of a quiet sea,
 The generous soul of nature,
 The comforting arm of night,
 The wisdom of the ages,
 The power of the eagle's flight,
 The joy of a morning in spring,
 The faith of a mustard seed,
 The patience of eternity,
 The depth of a family need,
 Then God combined these qualities,
 When there was nothing more to add,
 He knew His masterpiece was
 complete,
 And so, He called it ... Dad



Last but not Least-----

THE TEN ROCKAMANDMENTS
Author Unknown

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbour's minerals unless he places them in your hands.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pushing, biting or squeezing.
3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbour's fossil, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt no place thy neighbour's specimen in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not test thy neighbour's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
6. Thou shalt not argue the name of that mineral too violently, sometimes thou could be wrong.
7. Thou shalt no climb above thy neighbour when on a field trip lest thou are willing to spend the remainder of the day digging him out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine own eyes, hands and feet so thou can enjoy many, many more field trips.
9. Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbour's diggings lest his hammer falls on thy toe.
10. Thou shalt not complain about or denounce thy club officers under penalty of being elected one thyself.

SOURCE: Burro Express;
 Via Strata Gems

**HAVE A GREAT
 SUMMER
 EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!!**